PROCEEDINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY OF REPRESENTATIVE RAIYATS AND MERCHANTS FROM ALL TALUKS OF THE PROVINCE OF MYSORE, HELD AT MYSORE ON THE 17TH OCTOBER 1888 AND FOLLOWING DAYS.

The *eighth* Annual Assembly of the Representative Raiyats and Merchants of Mysore was held on the 17th October 1888 in the Rangacharlu Memorial Hall, the Dewan presiding. There were present on the occasion the Resident and his Staff, the Councillors of the Mysore State, the Judges of the Chief Court, the Heads of Departments, the Chief and other Secretaries to the Government and Deputy Commissioners.

2. The following address was read by the Dewan.

GENTLEMEN:—I am commanded by His Highness the Maharaja to lay before you to-day, a brief account of some of the more important results of the administration of the Province during the past official year, and, after doing this, to call upon you for any representations you may wish to make, either in the way of calling attention to any local wants or of suggesting any improvements in the administration.

In discharging the duty which thus devolves upon me, the subject that claims my first attention is Finance. Let me remind you, by way of preface, of what I said on this subject in my address last year. On that occasion I attempted to explain the progress of our Revenue during the past fifty years, and pointed out that the income realized in the year 1886—87, *viz.*, 127¼ lakhs, was the highest in the financial history of the Province. That high figure was fully a rise of 13¼ lakhs from the previous year 1885—86, and now I am glad to be able to inform you that a still further improvement of about 2¼ lakhs has accrued during the past year.

With these preliminary remarks I proceed now to read the statements of Revenue and Expenditure under all heads except the Railway.

Receipts.

	1886—87.	1887—88.
	Rs.	Rs.
Land Revenue	87,09,602	85,13,879
Excise	11,78,165	14,94,521
Forest	9,98,364	10,08,417
Stamps	5,15,326	5,05,550
Sayer	4,36,340	4,12,462
Mohatarfa	3,35,104	3,40,181
Law and Justice including Jail Receipts	49,983	70,038
Post Office	68,008	74,300
Registration	56,014	53,823
Amrut Mahal	77,425	61,582
Education	23,588	23,911
Salt	26,107	20,723
Public Works	12,994	13,671
Gold Mining	51,248	33,433
Medical	3,015	12,190
Scientific and other Minor Departments...	8,323	5,885
Interest on arrears of Land Revenue	46,217	33,358
Profit or loss on Investment in Government Pro. Notes ...	40,158	61,666
Interest on Investment in Government Pro. Notes	45,549	1,08,470
Interest on Current Deposit, Madras Bank	Nil.	37,711
Miscellaneous	76,978	90,504
Total.....	1,27,58,508	1,29,76,276

Expenditure.

A.	1886—87.	1887—88.
	Rs.	Rs.
Subsidy	24,50,000	24,50,000
Civil List	13,00,000	13,00,000
Interest on Public Debt	4,96,955	4,93,850
Political pensions including allowances in lieu of Jahgir ...	1,01,901	1,04,020
Military Force	7,37,234	7,17,875
Total.....	50,86,090	50,65,745

B.

		1886—87.	1887—88.
		Rs.	Rs.
Administration and Public Departments		2,36,699	2,05,469
Land Revenue charges.	Deputy Commissioners and Establishments	1,60,776	1,68,699
	Assistant Commissioners and Establishments	58,744	57,341
	Taluk Establishments	3,18,715	3,21,903
	Revenue Survey	2,22,570	1,94,069
	Inam Department	7,964	7,808
	Remuneration of Village Servants	4,24,472	4,46,113
	Other items	30,612	38,449
Excise		16,123	28,591
Forest		3,20,687	3,97,529
Stamps		25,455	17,867
Sayer		12,839	13,837
Stationery and Printing		69,718	65,172
Amrut Mahal		34,969	29,904
Scientific and other Minor Departments		62,516	45,820
	Total.....	20,02,859	20,38,571

C.

Law and Justice including Jails	7,45,289	7,44,379
Police	5,36,992	5,80,401
Education	1,75,610	1,78,172
Muzarayi	2,83,601	2,78,932
Medical	1,45,954	1,64,221
Superannuation pensions and gratuities	2,44,109	2,51,789
Public Works	12,71,132	15,79,906
Post Office	1,29,424	1,35,676
Registration	25,532	25,842
British Officers' furlough and absentee allowances, retiring gratuities, compensation allowances and leave and pensionary contributions	33,852	36,310
Interest on Mysore Savings' Bank Deposits	46,660	51,429
Refunds	66,543	47,284
Purchase and Repair of tents...	5,188	33,603
Charges connected with the reception of H. E. the Viceroy ...	7,291	10,461
Moiety of charges on account of H. H. the Maharaja's Northern India Tour	...	63,012
Donation to Indo-Colonial Institute, London	...	50,000
Miscellaneous	1,03,029	62,858
Total.....	38,20,204	42,94,275
Grand Total.....	1,09,09,153	1,13,98,591

Land Revenue.—The most noticeable feature in the foregoing statement of Receipts is that the total Land Revenue amounted to Rs. 85,13,879 being Rs. 1,95,000 less than in the previous year. This decrease, however, was not due to any falling off either in the extent of land under cultivation or in the normal Land Revenue Demand for the year, as you will readily gather from the following figures :—

	In 1886—87.	In 1887—88.
	Rs.	Rs.
Amount of previous years' arrears collected	17,95,141	12,95,967
Amount collected on account of current year's Revenue Demand	69,14,461	72,17,913
Total amount collected	87,09,602	85,13,880
Amount of arrears at end of 1887—88		13,65,461

increase in Tumkur was chiefly due to Railway works. In Mysore, the large Public Works in course of execution account for a considerable increase, while that in Hassan and Kadur must be attributed in a great measure to the suppression of illicit distillation in the Malnad and chiefly among the coffee coolies. In Bangalore and Shimoga, the increase has been very inconsiderable.

We thus find that the increase due to suppression of illicit distillation is restricted to remote and secluded localities. A larger rate of increase is observed in the vicinity of the Railway, the Gold-Mines of Kolar and our own large Public Works, where high wages of labor have prevailed; but a further and general increase common to the whole Province can only be attributed to the years of good rain-fall and plentiful harvests we have lately had. We may thus safely conclude that the favorable character of the seasons, the chief price of food grains and the high wages of labor have all combined to increase the consumption of arrack. In the present year, we have again raised the retail price per gallon, 20° Under-proof, from Rs. 5 to Rs. 5—5—0 by means of a reduction of the dram measure from $\frac{1}{48}$th to $\frac{1}{51}$st part of an Imperial gallon. And this reduction has also the effect of at once diminishing the quantity usually taken at a time by an individual.

The last year was the second year of the existing toddy contract under which the annual revenue from this source is fixed at Rs. 7,32,000, and any small variations in the revenue realized in each year are due to some of the instalments not being fully collected before the 31st March.

Under Forests, sandalwood realized about six lakhs, being a decrease of nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ lakh as compared with 1887—88, due to a less favorable market for the article in Bombay. But, on the other hand, our income from timber and miscellaneous products was about five lakhs as against only three in 1887—88. On the whole, therefore, there was an increase of nearly $1\frac{1}{4}$ lakh.

The Gold industry in the Kolar District shows considerable progress. The precious metal extracted by the various Companies, which weighed 15,403 oz. in 1887 rose to 35,073 oz. in 1888, the Mysore Company alone having produced 13,087 and 19,090 oz in the two years. The royalty levied during the past year amounted to over one lakh.

Investments of the surplus revenue and deposits in the Madras Bank account for an increase of Rs. 86,000.

The most important decrease has been under Land Revenue. It was entirely due to the process now going on, year after year, of a gradual reduction of the previous year's arrears. In the beginning of the past three years, the arrears have successively been Rs. 25,04,777, Rs. 18,05,879 and Rs. 13,99,079, and in the beginning of the current year, they were Rs. 12,98,279.

As compared with 1887—88, there was collected during the last year, less arrears to the extent of	.. ..	Rs. 3,47,446
though more of the current year's demand was collected to the extent of	.. .. ..	„ 2,29,904
Thus there was a net decrease of	.. .. ..	„ 1,17,542

The annual demand and not the actual collection gives a correct idea of the present condition of the Land Revenue. I am happy to say that the demand for 1888—89, namely Rs. 82,84,998, was the highest we have ever had. Before the Rendition, the largest Land Revenue demand was 76 lakhs in 1867—68; in 1875—76 it had fallen to $73\frac{3}{4}$ lakhs, in the next year it fell to $64\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs owing to the famine of that year, and in 1880—81, the year preceding the Rendition, it was about $69\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs. During the next 4 years, there was some improvement, but during the last four, the increase has been very marked as you will see by comparing the following figures for 1884—85 and the following years:—

	Rs.
1884—85	74,05,000
1885—86	77,86,000
1886—87	81,31,000
1887—88	81,41,000
1888—89	82,85,000

3

The part of the present increased revenue, due to the introduction of the Survey Settlement, is comparatively insignificant, while the progressive increase due to extension of cultivation will be seen by comparing the actual occupied area during the past 4 years. The occupied area of the past four years has been as follows:—

	Acres.
In 1885—86	4,825,000
In 1886—87	5,100,000
In 1887—88	5,245,000
In 1888—89	5,384,000

This shows the steady extension of cultivation, under the influence of the highly propitious seasons we have been blessed with, during the past three years. And I am happy to be able to congratulate the Province upon the excellent agricultural prospects of the current year.

Expenditure.—The total expenditure of the year amounted to Rs. 1,17,40,000 being Rs. 3,42,000 more than in the previous year.

The principal increase was under "Public Works" of abqut Rs. 4,02,000 owing to many new works of importance which I shall refer to hereafter.

Under "Forests," there was an increase of Rs. 59,000, out of which Rs. 44,000 was on account of Elephant Khaddas and the remainder under Conservancy and Establishment. On new Plantations the expenditure was Rs. 86,000 as compared with Rs. 68,000 in 1887—88.

Under "Medical," there was an increase of Rs. 25,000 owing to new Dispensaries and increments of pay to Assistant Surgeons.

Railway Earnings and Interest.—The three-quarters of net earnings of the State Railway received from the Southern Mahratta Railway Company amounted to Rs. 69,629 as against Rs. 2,78,250 in 1887—88. This great falling-off was, it is believed, due to heavy charges against the Revenue on account of repairs considered necessary to the open line. On the other hand, the State had to pay Rs. 3,65,039 as guaranteed interest upon the expended portion of the Railway capital raised in England.

Surplus.—Including Railway earnings received and guaranteed interest paid, the total receipts amounted to Rs. 1,32,89,717 and the total expenditure, to Rs. 1,21,05,762; there was thus a surplus of Rs. 11,83,955 on the year's transactions and this, added to the opening balance on 1st April 1888, gave a total Revenue surplus of Rs. 77,35,835 at the close of the last year. Of this amount, about 50 lakhs were in Government of India Pro-notes; about 10 lakhs are being similarly invested in the current year, and the remainder is a portion of the Cash Balance required for the purposes of the administration throughout the year.

Budget Estimates.—The Budget Estimates of Receipts for the current year, exclusive of the probable net earnings of the State Railway, amount to Rs. 1,27,26,000. These estimates are Rs. 4,94,000 less than the revenue realized in the previous year. Under "Land Revenue", the estimate is only 82 lakhs, though with the favorable season we are now having, there is every reason to anticipate that the collections may amount to about 84 lakhs. Small decreases appear under "Excise," "Forests," and other heads of Revenue, the estimates being based upon the average receipts of previous years.

The estimated expenditure of the current year, (exclusive of interest on the English Railway Loan) amounts, according to the revised Budget, to Rs. 1,21,45,000 as compared with an actual of Rs. 1,17,40,723 in 1888—89. The principal heads under which an increase is provided for are the following:—

Rs.

1,05,000.—Under Land Revenue, chiefly on account of the Remuneration of Village Servants and Malnad Inams.

87,000.—Under "Forests," owing to an improved conservancy and the strengthening of Establishment rendered necessary by the extension of operations.

30,000.—Under " Excise Establishment, " owing to the appointment of an Excise Commissioner and increase in the subordinate staff, the additional cost being fully met by the increase expected from the reduction of the dram measure already referred to.

1,12,000.—Under " Education". Of this amount, Rs. 69,000 is on account of the re-transfer of Taluk Vernacular schools from Local to Provincial Funds. These charges had been transferred from Provincial to Local Funds during the financial pressure of 1879—80 but their re-transfer has been deemed necessary in order to give effect to the original intention of devoting 24 per cent of the Local Cess, exclusively to primary vernacular education in hobli and village schools for the benefit of the rural population. Rs. 22,000 is the increase on account of grants-in-aid due to new schools for both boys and girls, to the enlargement of existing schools and to the re-transfer of certain charges which the Bangalore Municipality has been paying for the last few years.

Railway Estimates.—According to the revised Budget, the estimate of three-quarters of net Railway earnings due to the State is Rs. 3,00,000 based upon a careful forecast. The interest payable on account of Railway Capital raised in England has been budgetted for at Rs. 6,53,100, being interest on £ 990,700—10—8, the capital outlay up to date at an exchange rate of 1s. 4d. Thus the net payment required during the year on account of the Railway is about 3½ lakhs.

Future financial arrangements.—Having thus explained the present condition of both the revenue and expenditure of the State, I now turn to the immediate future. I beg to refer you to the statements of net income and expenditure with which you have been furnished. You will see from them that, excluding from consideration Railway earnings and interest on Railway Capital, the annual surplus during the next five years may safely be estimated at 15 lakhs. To this amount has to be added ¾ths of net Railway earnings which are estimated at 3 lakhs in the current year, rising by annual increments of ¼ lakh to 4½ lakhs in seven years.

Against this net total income, there would be charges on account of interest on, and redemption of, Railway loans. I shall now explain the arrangements made for meeting these charges. The Famine debt of 80 lakhs due to the British Government has now been fully liquidated and the last payment on account of it (namely, Rs. 1,99,404) was made on 31st December 1888. A fund has been formed for the redemption of the Local Railway Loan of 20 lakhs and the first payment into it of Rs. 2,00,596 was also made in December last. In the current and next three years 4 lakhs per annum, and in 1893—94 Rs. 2,71,905, will be paid into this Fund so as, with interest, to accumulate 20 lakhs for the repayment of the local Loan in the year 1902.

From 1894—95 payments will be made towards another Fund for the redemption of the English Railway Loan of £ 1,200,000.—The annual payment required is £ 14,630 per annum (equivalent to Rs. 2,19,450 at 1s 4d.) for 42 years, the debt being repayable in the year 1936. In addition to these payments, interest on the above mentioned loans has to be paid, namely one lakh on the local Loan and £ 48,000 (equivalent to Rs. 7,20,000) on the English Loan. Over and above these payments on account of liabilities already incurred, a provision of 12 lakhs per annum would be required during the next five years for important Irrigation Works of Famine-protection and for proposed new Railways. According to a careful forecast, of which a translation is now before you, the Irrigation works proposed would involve an average annual addition of about 5¾ lakhs to the present Public Works grant of 20 lakhs, while the total length of about 250 miles of proposed new Railways (to be described hereafter) would require a capital of 120 lakhs and involve an annual payment of about 6¼ lakhs, if the capital debt is to be redeemed simultaneously with the present English debt of £ 1,200,000. As we are at present unable to make so large a provision as 12 lakhs per annum, it may be found necessary to modify the Public Works Department forecast and at the same time to invest on new Railways a portion of the accumulated savings of the past few years. These are matters which at present engage the careful consideration of His Highness' Government.

It must not however be forgotten that there are several other demands more or less pressing upon the resources of the State, such as the improvement of the Shekdari and Amildari services, a revision of the Sáyer on arecanut or of the land tax upon the gardens, the formation of a Fund for Famine relief, &c.

Turning next to the working of the principal Departments of the State, the first that claims our attention is the Public Works Department. In my remarks last year, I informed you that the works on the extension of the Railway from Gubbi to Harihar were being pushed forward with vigour by the Southern Mahratta Company. These works have since been completed and on the 5th August last, the lines from Mysore to Tiptur, the south-eastern section, and from Harihar to Tiptur—the Northern section—of our State Railway were finally linked together, and the through line declared open by His Highness the Maharaja. It is needless for me to enlarge here on the blessings which this great work will confer on the Province. They are recognized by all the members of this Assembly and already have we the happiness of feeling that a large area of the country is fully protected from the worst results of a Famine. But it is not proposed to rest here. The Government of India have now before them proposals for the extension southwards from Mysore to Gudalur (about 54 miles in Mysore) and there is every probability of the first section of this extension as far as Nanjangud being taken in hand this year. And on this extension through our southern Taluks, there will follow in due course, it is hoped, branches from Bangalore to Hindupur, about 54 miles, from Birur to Shimoga, about 37 miles and from Arsikere to Mysore *viâ* Hassan, Holé-Narsipur, and Yedatore, with a possible extension to Fraserpet, about 110 miles ; though in what order and at what rate of annual progress these extensions will actually be undertaken it is as yet impossible to say, as these questions must depend on the definite settlement of our future financial position and of the relations of the State to the Southern Mahratta Company. You may rest assured, however, that the subject is ever present in our mind and that no effort will be spared to secure to Mysore a system of Railway communications as complete and perfect as we can make it.

Our policy in regard to ordinary Public Works continues to be carried out steadily on the lines indicated in my Address of last year, and a perusal of the Public Works Budget of the current year will show you exactly what is being done under all heads. You will observe that, of a total grant from the State of Rs. 21,00,000 (I exclude District Funds from consideration just now), Rs. 41,913 have been set apart for Military Buildings, Rs. 2,93,396 for Civil Buildings, Rs. 5,78,162 for Communications, Rs. 1,37,452 for Miscellaneous Public Improvements, and Rs. 10,49,077 for Irrigation Works.

Under the first head, the outlay is for providing decent and healthy barracks for the Mysore forces.

Under the second head, the chief outlay is on the Public Buildings you see springing up around you here in Mysore, on a few new Taluk Cutcherries necessary to supersede old and completely dilapidated offices and on numerous Dispensaries than which there can be no institutions more worthy of liberal aid from the State.

Under the third head, Communications, a large proportion of the grant is given to the great bridges at Hariharpur, Balehonnur and Belur, whilst Railway feeders, accommodation for travellers and above all, " maintenance, " an ever increasing item, absorb the remainder.

Under the fourth head, Miscellaneous Public Improvements, the water-supply, drainage, and general improvements of the Mysore City in order to place the Southern Capital on a footing befitting its dignity and traditions, take nearly the whole of the allotment available for such purposes.

And under the 5th head, the long list of tanks and channels enumerated in detail in the Budget is sufficient evidence of the attention which is being given to the requirements of our Irrigation Works all over the Province. To touch in detail on any of these works would needlessly occupy your time and attention but I think every member of this Assembly will be able to see in the list, works in which the

Taluk he represents is specially interested, and, as I said last year, should particular works be wanting which you deem to be deserving of consideration, they have but to be brought to notice, to receive the attention of our Engineers in due course.

In the above remarks, I excluded District Funds from consideration, though they are included in the Public Works Budget. They are distinct from the State grants for works, and are, as you are aware, administered by District Boards who select the works to be carried on by the Engineers and allot the amounts available. These funds go altogether to local roads and local minor requirements. Although the total of these funds amounts to the handsome figure of Rs. 5,26,000, the extension of local roads has of recent years been so great and there is such need for maintaining them in better order, that we have found it necessary to relieve the District Fund Budget of several of the more important lines, (most of which were formerly maintained from Provincial Funds,) and to classify them as Provincial so that their maintenance now falls, and must for some time continue to fall, on the Provincial grants. This relief will, it is hoped, enable the several Boards to bring up the existing local roads to a better standard and to assign larger funds to the more pressing sanitary requirements of their Districts—requirements which, I am sure, will readily enlist your sympathy and co-operation. And I may add that without your active co-operation in measures of this kind, and similar co-operation on the part of all the more enlightened and leading inhabitants of the country, the successful inauguration and enforcement of sanitary measures, such as I allude to, must be a practical impossibility to the State and to the Local Boards.

Last year, I placed before you the comparative progressive outlay on irrigation during the preceding 6 years. The statement showed that the expenditure had risen gradually from Rs. 3,28,368 in 1881—82 to Rs. 7,14,277 in 1887—88. I may now add that in 1888—89, it amounted to Rs. 9,61,950, whilst in the current year we anticipate an outlay of 10½ lakhs.

Having thus disposed of the past and present, I may now touch briefly on the future. The forecast programme to which I had already occasion to refer has been prepared in the Public Works Secretariat after very careful scrutiny, and it includes all projects costing each over Rs. 20,000, which it is proposed to undertake during the next 5 years, if all goes well. The programme contemplates an annual outlay (exclusive of minor works, repairs and maintenance) as follows:—

In	1890—91	..	..	9,19,000
„	1891—92	..	..	13,53,000
„	1892—93	..	..	14,77,000
„	1893—94	..	..	15,41,000
„	1894—95	..	..	15,29,000

It embraces all known requirements under "Military and Civil Buildings," "Roads," and "Miscellaneous Public Improvements," whilst under "Irrigation" are entered all major works already sanctioned or about to be sanctioned, as well as all projects which are under contemplation, but which, in the present stage of investigation, cannot as yet be pronounced as absolutely remunerative and feasible. All that can at present be said of these is that a selection has been made of such as are likely to turn out well. The great Marikanave Dam is included and so is a great project for a new Anicut across the Cauvery, to be called after His Highness the Maharaja, together with an extensive system of new irrigation therefrom and the permanent improvement of the old Chikka Devaraya Sagar, Virjanadi and Devaraya systems. The irrigation works entered in the programme are expected to cost in the aggregate the large sum of 90½ lakhs, but the outlay would be distributed as follows over the current and next five years:—

1888—89	..	..	..	5,79,000
1889—90	..	..	..	9,75,000
1890—91	..	..	..	10,08,000
1891—92	..	..	..	11,51 000
1892—93	..	..	..	12,42,000
1893—94	..	..	..	12,90,000
				62,45,500

thus leaving a sum of about 28 lakhs to be provided in future years.

5

The above is a very extensive and satisfactory programme of Public Works for the next five years, but whether it can be carried out in its integrity must depend on the exact state of the public Treasury year after year.

All I can now announce is it is our present intention to adhere as far as possible and as far as our means will allow, to this forecast which exhibits to you in a practical and readily intelligible form the progressive policy we are pursuing in regard to Public Works. A translation of the forecast is now before you and I shall be glad to receive and consider any suggestions by way either of alterations or additions which you may be able to make from your intimate knowledge of local wants and local interests.

Tank Maintenance.—I cannot close my remarks on this Department of our administration without alluding to the scheme of Tank maintenance which commanded your attention during the last two years, and which continues to engross the attention of our District officials. In many Taluks a conspicuous measure of success has been achieved and the raiyats have come to recognize their direct and deep interest in the success of the scheme. But I regret to say there are still not a few Taluks, notably in the Kolar District, where the raiyats still Hold back. It is however hoped that the good example set in Shimoga, Arsikere, Sira, Hiriyur and Mandya will soon be followed throughout the other Taluks of the Province. As I did before, I now appeal to you again to use your influence with the people to promote a measure in which their interests and well-being are so largely involved.

Revenue Administration.—Advantage has been taken of the introduction of the new Revenue Code to inaugurate a system for the regular hearing and disposal of all revenue matters coming before the Government in appeal or revision. The Revenue Code excludes from the jurisdiction of the Civil Courts an important class of questions which arise before the Revenue authorities and it is essential that these and other matters involving rights and often of a *quasi* judicial nature should not be finally decided without thorough investigation, and full opportunity given to the parties interested to support their claims and contentions. Under such circumsatnces, His Highness the Maharaja has been pleased to direct that all Revenue appeals and revision cases coming before the Government shall be heard and decided by at least two Members of His Highness' Council, that the procedure adopted should in essence be that of the Civil Courts and that the decisions passed should be published monthly.

Judicial Changes.—The question of reconstituting the District and Sessions Court at Bangalore, or of adopting some other alternative for removing the anomaly of the three Judges of the Chief Court having to hear an appeal from one of themselves, has lately been under the consideration of the Government. In the interests of a more popular administration of justice, a better arrangement has long been called for, but our difficulty has been to reconcile the constitution of a District and Sessions Court at Bangalore with leaving sufficient work for the three Judges of the Chief Court. After full consideration, the Government have decided to alter the Chief Court Regulation so as to allow of the appointment of a District and Sessions Judge at Bangalore for the original and appellate Criminal work of a Sessions Court and for the original Civil work of a District Court, leaving to the Chief Court all Civil appeals from the Munsiffs of the Nundydroog Division. This arrangement would enable the Sessions Judge to be appointed to hold trials at the Head-Quarters of each District once in two or three months, thereby saving to the numerous witnesses called upon to attend Sessions trials, the inconvenience and expense of a long journey. It will also give the Judges of the Chief Court more time than they have now to devote to the inspection of subordinate Courts. Altogether, the measure is one calculated generally to improve the administration of justice and especially of criminal justice.

Forests.--To conserve all eligible forest tracts and to husband their resources, to aid natural reproduction by artificial means, to replace indiscriminate felling by systematic operations, to allow the agricultural classes the facilities for grazing and for meeting their essential wants and to ensure an unfailing supply of sandalwood—these have been the cardinal principles of the Policy of His Highness' Government in their Forest Administration.

Forest conservancy, indeed, is a most beneficial measure and although attended with some immediate temporary inconveniences, its eventual advantages are manifold and unquestionable.

During the past year, Reserved forests received considerable accessions and upwards of 232 square miles of more or less valuable jungle tracts were brought under conservancy regulations. Large additions were made to the planted area, 2,883 acres or nearly four square miles being stocked with timber and fuel trees.

While thus increasing the forest resources and revenue, the interests of the agricultural classes have not been overlooked. These are exempt from payment for fuel for their own use and for unreserved wood and certain Forest produce for their agricultural purposes. They can obtain on favorable rates timber and bamboos for building purposes.

Sandalwood which forms the back-bone of the Forest Revenue, is continuing to receive much attention. Over large tracts, the cultivation of this valuable tree is being carried on with systematic care and attention. And natural sandal preserves have been brought under protection. The ancient system of sandalwood conservancy and growth being looked after by a special establishment of Manegars has been revived. The collections of sandalwood last year were enhanced by the removal of old roots abandoned or forgotten in former years. The demand for sandalwood has risen high within the past two years, as evidenced by the high rates secured.

The subordinate service in the Forest Department has been improved by the scale of its pay being brought more into harmony with that of the corresponding grades in other Departments. The establishment has had likewise to be strengthened in consequence of the expansion of operations.

Three graduated students have been deputed for special training in the Forest School at Dehra Dun and are intended to strengthen the superior grades in which there are already three graduated Sūb-Assistant Conservators who passed out of the Forest School some time back. Three Rangers already in service are also undergoing the prescribed Forest course at Dehra Dun.

Elephant Khaddas.—The total expenditure on Khaddas has been Rs. 66,000. This amount includes a sum of Rs. 30,000, being the cost of 12 Kumki elephants brought from Dacca for Khadda operations. Altogether 51 elephants were caught. Of these, 31 of the value of Rs. 26,680 were retained. We expect another catch within two months, and the value of some 25 elephants to be retained out of these is estimated at about Rs. 25,000. There will thus be a substantial profit on the year's operations. But in organizing Khadda operations, an important object we had in view was to afford relief to raiyats from the depredations of wild elephants. These animals would appear to have increased largely and to have begun to cause serious damage to crops in parts of Mysore, Kadur and Shimoga. The experience gained in Mysore will be useful in turning these pests into sources of profit.

Education.—Education in all its branches has continued to advance, and the improvement has perhaps been most marked in vernacular and primary education. The statistics show that there are now 19 Taluk schools with from 150 to 300 pupils in each and 29 others with from 100 to 150. The formation of prosperous Hobli Schools into Taluk branch-schools has now become a very popular measure, and there are already more than 100 such schools, the largest of which are scarcely inferior to Taluk Schools and have an attendance of from 100 to 300 pupils. Meanwhile, fresh requisitions for Hobli schools are being continually received, and the Government have found it necessary, as already explained, to relieve the Local Funds, originally designed for primary education, from charges on account of Taluk Schools.

The wants of English instruction are well met by the existing Colleges and High Schools at District Head-quarters and the Municipal Schools in Taluk stations. The results of the University Examinations have been, on the whole, favorable and testify to the maintenance of good standard.

Government aid has been newly given to a large number of private schools, among which are included many giving instruction in Sanskrit. The promotion of

the study of Sanskrit in conjunction with that of Kanarese, is calculated to raise the general standard of education in the country, and the annual examinations conducted by the Palace Pandits in connection with the Mysore Sanskrit College provide a trustworthy criterion by which to test the efficiency of the large number of Sanskrit schools now in existence.

Female education is advancing in every direction and may now be considered as an object of general approval. Her Highness the Maharani's Girls' School at Mysore is looked up to as a guide, and many new and successful schools have been established in various parts. The recent appointment of a lady from England as the Lady Superintendent is an important step from which very good results are expected.

Archæology.—The Archæological survey was extended over nine Taluks and one Sub-Taluk. The inscriptions obtained include several of considerable antiquity and importance, especially those of the Kadamba, Rashtrakuta and Ganga kings.

Several manuscript works of the highest value for the history of the Kanarese language and literature have been acquired. They tend to show that a high state of general culture prevailed a thousand years ago, especially in parts now known as the "Southern Mahratta country" but technically recognized as the "Karnataka Prant" which are directly united with Mysore by the recently opened line of Railway.

Anche.—The transfer of the local Anche to the Imperial Postal Department was effected on 1st April 1889. The change financially is a decided gain to the State to the extent of Rs. 60,000 per annum. But in agreeing to the transfer, the Darbar have been swayed by considerations higher than those of mere financial gain. Surrounded on every side by British Territory and its highly developed Postal system, the isolation of the local Post could not long continue without causing marked inconvenience to trade and without impeding general progress. With the Railways and roads which are now so rapidly opening out every part of the country and the growth of commercial relations with other parts of India, Mysore is expected to keep pace with the requirements of the times. Requisitions had indeed been made from various quarters for the insurance of parcels, money orders, telegraph offices and other new wants, such as are elsewhere met by the Postal Department. But it was apparent that such an elaborate system could not usefully be attempted by a purely local Post, for, the essential condition of success in every Postal system is centralized control and absolute uniformity of rules and organization. There were some difficulties in improving our own Anche so as to give the public all these advantages and to fit it in to the Imperial system. These considerations influenced His Highness' Government in deciding to amalgamate the local with the Imperial Post and they believe that the measure will very materially add to the convenience of the people.

Military force for Imperial Service.—You are doubtless aware that the various Native Princes throughout India, including our own Maharaja, made offers some time back to re-organize and improve their Military forces, and to place them at the disposal of the Imperial Government for active service with the regular armies of the Empire. These offers were all received in the spirit in which they were made, and the process of reorganization and improvement of existing armies at once commenced. Major Mellis was deputed to control the work of reorganization and the scheme has already been completed as regards Kashmir and the Punjab and Rajputana States. Its extension to States further from the north-western frontier has now commenced, and Major Mellis is expected shortly to visit Mysore on his important mission. The Mysore army having, from various causes, been greatly reduced from time to time, the offer of His Highness the Maharaja was not merely to improve the existing forces but to raise and maintain a suitable new force. There is in the State excellent military material from which a very efficient force can readily be raised. In physique the Mysorean is far superior to the average man of the plains, and he is specially noted for his endurance and hard work in distant countries and under the most trying conditions of climate and fatigue. The Bédar Infantry and the Mysore Cavalry, so well known for their valor, were all drawn from warlike classes who are indigenous to the country, and who will now, as of old,

furnish excellent recruits for a new army. Our climate places us in a better position than most other Provinces for maintaining an excellent Cavalry; and with our well-known Amrut Mahal cattle, we possess exceptional advantages in the matter of transport. These considerations and the traditions of the Royal Family of Mysore induced His Highness to place the military resources of the State at the disposal of the Empire, and His Highness eagerly looks forward to the day when he will have the satisfaction to know that his State is able to take a direct part in Imperial Defence, in a way befitting its own high rank and its obligations to the Empire.

It is now my pleasing duty to announce to you that His Royal Highness Prince Albert Victor, the grandson of our beloved Sovereign the Queen Empress has been pleased to accept our invitation to visit Mysore in the course of his tour through India in November next. The Darbar, I need hardly assure you, have adopted measures for welcoming the Royal Visitor in a manner befitting his exalted rank. Her Majesty the Queen has, by according Her Gracious sanction to this visit of the Prince to India, given us another proof of her love to India and its people. To the Royal House of Mysore, Her Majesty and her Government have throughout been particularly kind and His Highness feels that the expected visit of the illustrious Prince will further strengthen the interest Her Gracious Majesty takes in all that concerns the well-being of Mysore.

MYSORE,
9th October 1889.

K. SHESHADRI IYER,
Dewan of Mysore.